GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:122
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
EQUIPMENTS FOR GENERATION OF SOLAR ENERGY
Mohale Shri Punnulal;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equipments required for the generation of solar energy in the country are being imported;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on import of such equipments during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote manufacturing of these equipments indigenously?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a),(b) & (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 122 for answer on 7th March, 2008

(a) & (b) : Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively. Solar photovoltaic modules are required for generation of electricity and the solar thermal collectors for generate of heat.

Sufficient production capacity has been set up in the country to meet the domestic requirement of solar photovoltaic modules and solar thermal collectors. A number of companies are engaged in domestic production of these items. However, some companies are importing solar photovoltaic modules and evacuated tube thermal collectors due to commercial reasons. These equipment are covered under the open general licence policy and can be freely imported. The Ministry does not maintain records of such imports.

(c): The Government is providing a number of fiscal and financial incentives to promote indigenous production of equipment for harnessing solar energy. These incentives include (i) concessional or nil customs duty on certain raw materials and components, (ii) excise duty exemption, (iii) soft loan for manufacture of integrated solar modules, and (iv) 80% accelerated depreciation in the first year.